

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Local Union No. 1521 of Omaha, Nebraska

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February 16, 2010



U.S. Senator Ben Nelson
440 No. 8th St.
Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Metropolitan Utilities District - \$12 million Appropriations Application

Dear U. S. Senator Nelson:

The Metropolitan Utilities District (the "District") is a major employer in the metro Omaha area and provides natural gas and water service to four of the counties in the metro area. The District has established a long term plan to replace the aging natural gas and water piping infrastructure in the eastern portion of Omaha. This construction project will impact 200,000 residents directly and will have a financial impact on 500,000 of the District's customer owners.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1521 is in support of the District's request for an appropriation of \$12 million to assist in the construction of a \$16.5 million new construction/operational center facility. The construction/operational facility will house at least 75 new employees for the District so they can effectively and efficiently begin the process of rebuilding the District's aging natural gas and water infrastructure distribution system. With the completion of the second construction/ operational center, the District will have adequate space at the original construction/ operations center to hire an additional 75 employees.

Therefore, an investment by the Federal Government of \$12 million will have a dramatic positive impact on the economy of the Omaha metro area. Employment will increase by 150 persons, who will have quality long term jobs. These jobs will create \$6.5 million in new annual income, which can be spent on purchasing houses, cars and raising children.

Senator Nelson, with the economy continuing to struggle and the need for good jobs in the Omaha area, your support for the \$12 million dollar federal appropriation for a new construction/operations center would be welcomed. IBEW Local 1521 pledges its support for the District's \$12 million appropriations application and requests your assistance in the federal appropriation process.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Riley
President
IBEW Local 1521